

'Dear John letters' honor president's dedication

The following are excerpts from the hundreds of letters sent to College President John Keyser

"I want to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous role model you have been for me over the years. I've had numerous opportunities in many different settings to see you in action. At every turn, you've been thoughtful, articulate, passionate about the issue at hand, and have displayed a kindness and compassion for others that is a unique quality among your peers." — **Liz Goulard, Former Dean of Instruction**

"Over the years you have gradually transformed the college by celebrating the good things that were already there, encouraging good people and programs to rise to prominence, and redirecting those forces that stood in the way of our culture of respect for each other and commitment to students." — **David Dickson, Assistant to the President**

"I have always appreciated and admired you for the time and care you took to make each of us feel special, to make us feel as if what we did was truly essential to the mission and excellence of CCC. You are so good at honoring endeavor, accomplishment and talent." — **Marcia Keith, Retired Associate Dean**

"You've spoiled me. I don't think a college president will ever be able to be as insightful, as open or as generous as you have been. Over the years you always opened your door to me, made time to ask

me about my poetry or my athletics. Your vision for what decency and fairness mean, for the type of service a college can provide, and for a type of leadership that is empathetic and egalitarian has been supported by your actions. Thank you for speaking for us, for speaking to us and with us. I know that as long as I teach at CCC, I will find you walking the halls. You have shaped the values of all of us who walk through the lives of the students we serve." — **Kate Gray, English Instructor**

"I shall never forget the first time that I met you and your family about 15 years ago. I introduced myself to you and could not help but watch the manner in which you so warmly and sincerely welcomed everyone. A few days after that first encounter, I was very moved when you remembered my name and my involvement with the students, although at that time I had been a part-time instructor for several years. I was not even listed in the staff directory. As the years passed you always made a point of acknowledging me and my work at Clackamas. I remember quite fondly that whenever we were having the cooking sessions with the Spanish Club, you always came in to inquire 'What's cooking?'" — **Carlota Holley, Retired Foreign Language Instructor**

"The College has flourished during the last 15 years under your leadership and the Clackamas County community has profited

significantly from your continuing interest in and commitment to community service and collaboration. Your leadership and commitment to education will be missed." — **Daniel O. Bernstine, President, Portland State University**

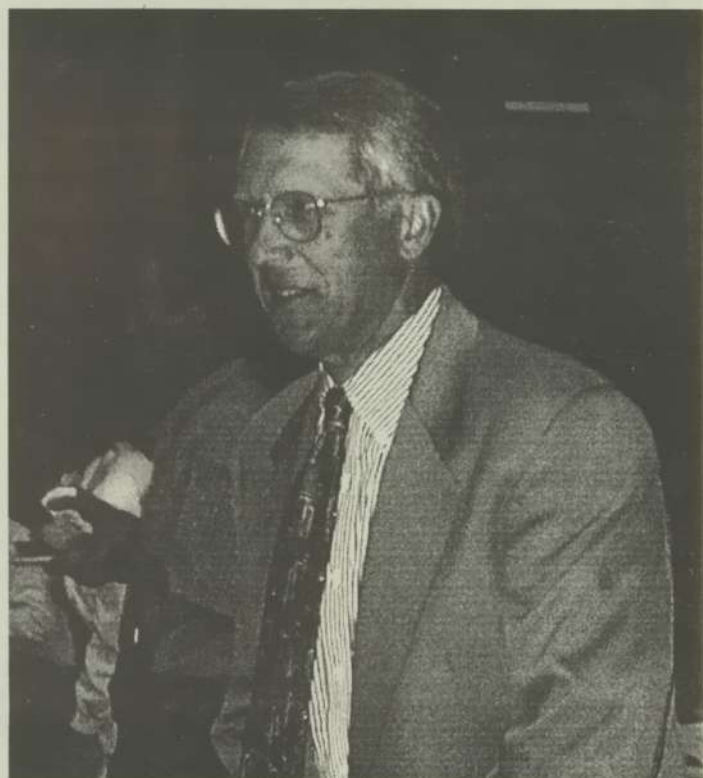
"You have steered this college with great vision. You have always been a voice of balance and great insight. Your deep belief in the inherent good of all people has served as an incredibly great marker to strive toward. I am proud to have you as an influence and supporter in my life. Thanks on behalf of all the students you have been able to touch in your amazing career. Thanks on behalf of all the staff that you have given so much to as our president. And thanks from me, for being a truly great role model and dedicated supporter. I could never fully express in words how much your belief in me has meant." — **Mike Caudle, Former ASG President, OSU Student Body President and current Clackamas Staff Member**

"The first year you were here, I remember my office phone ringing. I answered and you said, 'Hi Ellen, this is John Keyser.' I thought 'Oh, no, what did I do?' I didn't know you and didn't know why you would be calling me. But you only wanted to say hello and wish me happy birthday. I knew at that moment I was going to love working with you. . . . Where else do you find a president who, during inservice, has the entire staff hold

hands and take a moment for reflection? Where else do you find a president who will give you a hug and ask the staff to do the same so we can connect on a level of support and caring? I will miss the way you have used your heart and mind to lead our institution. I will miss you John Keyser." — **Ellen Wolfson, Counselor, CCC**

"Frank Sinatra, Johnny Carson, Elvis Presley, Cary Grant, Tom Selleck . . . these are a few people

who come to mind when I think of you! You are as charming and witty as anyone could ever be. . . . You have worked as hard as any one person could and have totally devoted your life to this college for the past 16 years. You can be so proud of the legacy you have left for all of us. I will always cherish and appreciate the privilege of knowing you and working with you, our exemplary leader and President." — **Suzy Alexander, Executive Assistant to the President**



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

The retirement of John Keyser has inspired staff and students to write about how he has contributed to their success at Clackamas Community College.

Letter to the Editor

In response to Terry Mackey's article

In my humble opinion I feel the article showcasing Terry's talent was in poor taste and offensive. The article was well written for the most part, and Terry is a very talented individual. My objection is the language level used to make a point.

College faculty and staff are, either intentionally or unintentionally, role models for a future generation of global employees. To that end, we are responsible for upholding not only high academic standards, but personal ones as well. My objection is this article about artistic talent went beyond that. It left the impression that reading pornography is something to be emulated and that our younger students are being told "Well if reading Playboy and talk-

ing trash is OK for a College Librarian then it must be OK for me." Do we really want to leave that message?

I am not a prude by any means, and realize publications frequently use offensive language for "shock" value, and individuals sometimes try to push the envelope to see what will be tolerated. I do not wish to appear tolerant by my silence! Journalistic license must also be tempered and judgment exercised about what type of language appears in print. What will appear next in print - F words, cursing and smut?

Dianna Shepherd
Criminal Justice

Rights are more than just wants

I recently read an article in Yahoo Magazine that reminded me of something that has bugged me for some time now. People don't know what rights are. In the aforementioned article, this guy complains about hotels not specifically accommodating laptop users. His list of necessities include having a desk and chair that offer comfort while using a laptop, having an extra phone jack in the right place for a laptop user, and having a three setting lamp so that he could have different levels of light for reading and typing.

Now these are nice features to have at a hotel if you're using a laptop, but to call it a right and to say that other people have an obligation to provide this for you is ridiculous. Rights aren't simply things that we want, or would like to happen. Rights are something

fundamental; they are liberties to prevent the oppression of the people, not to supply them with their every want and desire. Rights are designed to reduce government's otherwise

things essential to the prevention of oppression and the abuse of governing power. I think we can generate a few basic guidelines. To do this, I looked to both John Locke, and the *Bill of Rights*.

Rights are something fundamental



Matt Shempert
Staff Writer

ultimate power over you. John Stewart Mill discusses this in his book *On Liberty*.

"The aim, therefore, of patriots was to set limits to power which the ruler should be suffered to exercise over the community; and this limitation is what is meant by liberty."

We need to determine what things should be rights—the

"But though this be a state of liberty, yet it is not a state of license," says Locke. "No one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions."

And the *Bill of Rights* guarantee such rights as bearing arms, protection against unreasonable search and seizure, the right to a speedy, public and fair trial and protection against excessive bail.

Before a person thinks there 'ought to be a law,' or that they have the 'right' to this or that, make sure that it is the sort of thing that should really be a right, and not merely something of individual desire.



19600 S. Molalla Ave. Oregon City, Oregon 97045
(503) 657-6958 fax 2709
CLCPRINT@CLACKAMAS.CC.OR.US

Editor-in-Chief: Diana Scrivner (x2447)
Feature Editor: Maggie Jirasek
A & E Editor: Tam Oliver
Copy Editor: Jenny Chavez
Sports Editor: Frank Jordan
Photo Editor: Mike Pollock
Web-Master: Mark Venetucci

Business Manager: Daisy Bain (x2578)
Staff: Elena-Buryaska
Chris Lundgren
Liesl Muggli
Matt Shempert
Robin
Secretary: JoAnne Gale
Advisor: Linda Vogt (x2710)

The Clackamas Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed in The Clackamas Print do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty, or The Clackamas Print advertisers. Products and services advertised in The Clackamas Print are not necessarily endorsed by anyone associated with The Clackamas Print. The advertising rate is \$4.75 per column inch. The Clackamas Print is a weekly publication and is distributed every Wednesday except during Finals week. The Clackamas Print Copyright 2001.